



City of Wichita
455 N. Main
Wichita, KS 67202

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Special points of interest:

The next WPD Auto Auction will be held January 23rd and 24th.

Wichita Police Department

November 2006 Monthly Report

City Sees Drop In Crime

It's official. Major crimes in the City of Wichita are down. That's the good news. The better news is it's down significantly over the past two years - a total of 10%. Even better, major crimes in Wichita are down 6% between 2000 and 2006.

"What we're seeing is a validation of our philosophy of community policing," said Chief Norman Williams. "When citizens partner with Wichita Police officers, everyone benefits."

The statistics also show WPD Index crime clearance rates are well above the national average for cities with populations between 250,000 and 499,000.

"The men and women of the Wichita Police Department have a lot to be proud of," said Williams. "This is just the latest example of how professionalism and dedication pay big dividends."

Crime Clearance Rates

| Crimes Against Persons | WPD Clearance Rate YTD Nov. 30 | National Average FBI 2005 Statistics |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Aggravated Assaults | 65.2% | 53.4% |
| Homicides | 66.7% | 60.7% |
| Rapes | 71% | 42.1% |

| Crimes Against Property | WPD Clearance Rate YTD Nov. 30 | National Average FBI 2005 Statistics |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Auto Theft | 19.7% | 11.1% |
| Burglary | 15.6% | 12% |
| Larceny | 20.2% | 16.3% |
| Robbery | 33.2% | 24.3% |

Did You Know.....

During the month of November, WPD members received 33 CPRs that were generated internally and 24 that were generated externally.

The Professional Standards Bureau opened three internal complaints on members of the Department during November. There were no external complaints filed against Department employees.

Chief Williams attended 32 squad meeting during the month of November. This included four shifts at each Field bureau substation.

The Financial Crimes Section conducted Identify Theft presentations for one neighborhood association and two business groups.

The Reserve Unit donated 959 hours for the month of November.

The EOD Unit responded to three separate calls for service in November.

The Air Section participated directly in two pursuits in November. In both instances, the Air Section was able to track the suspect vehicle and direct ground units for an apprehension.

The Planning Analyst position in the Information Services Section has been reclassified to a commissioned Police Officer position and Officer Mike Leiber was selected to fill it.



WPD Webmaster
Officer Mike
Leiber

In November, Officer Shirkey continued to come in early and drive down each street on 31 beat citing all violations and putting impound stickers on vehicles that have not moved. Officer Shirkey has written 132 parking citations and has impounded 12 abandoned vehicles on her beat in the past 3 months. She advised the number of homeowners that were parking in the street have decreased to almost none and there are several streets on the beat that are extremely narrow, making it difficult for an emergency vehicle to get through.

Off. Gideon was in squad on November 11th when she heard a description of a robbery suspect being put out. She recognized the description as a subject she had recently dealt with. She informed Sgt. Reynolds of this information and provided Detectives with the personal information of the person she thought might be involved in their case. Detectives took the information provided by Off. Gideon and created a mug lineup, which was shown to the victim. The victim positively identified the subject as the robber.

On November 29th Officers Lloyd, Hinnars and Ryan gave two presentations on underage drinking, Kansas laws and DUI's to about 200 students. Officer Lloyd updated the JUDGE power point and also used the new Deaths Trifecta videos to assist with these presentations. The students had several good questions and were very attentive to the classes.



Sgt. Bolin attended the Physical Confrontation Response Instructor Certification Course at the Sioux City National Academy. He passed the course and he is now a certified Instructor in that system.

On November 13th Officer Floyd gave a presentation to a group of Brownie Girl Scouts at Dawson UMC in order for them to complete their "Brownie Crime Busters" award. The parents and children in this group were from Kelly Elementary.

Officer Hazelwood assisted the Junior R.O.T.C. students in several area schools with their "Toys for Tots" campaign. Officers Hazelwood and Mackey collected 136 toys and transferred 6,000 toys from storage to Pleasant Valley Middle School.



Officer Silva checked the welfare of a 63-year-old woman who had no money for food or shelter. Officer Silva called several organizations and found her assistance at Inter-Faith Ministries.

On November 8th Officers Arroyo and Navarro attended a "Family Night" at Park Elementary School to assist the South BOF, Ebony McNabb. The officers interacted with Hispanic parents and students so they could see a positive side of police officers.

Officers Diehl and Stevens were distinguished guests at the YWCA Annual meeting held at Tallgrass Country Club.

WPD Has Holiday Shopping Tips

Wichita area malls were packed with holiday shoppers during the Christmas holidays, and the Wichita Police Department's Community Affairs Section offered some tips that helped keep shoppers and their purchases safe.

"The first rule is always be aware of your surroundings, especially in mall parking lots," said Officer Jason Dautrich of Community Affairs. "People who are busy talking on cell phones or whose attention is focused on something else are easy targets for grab-and-run thieves."

Dautrich told the public it's also a good idea to lock your purchases in your trunk when parking at the mall. "When you're burdened with a lot of purchases, it's very tempting to just throw them on the back seat. Packages that are in plain view are more likely to be stolen by someone who smashes a car window to steal them." If you drive an SUV, says Dautrich, it's a good idea to bring along a blanket or some other covering to keep your purchases out of sight.

According to Dautrich, it's also a good idea to save your most expensive purchases for last. "That way, after you've bought those gifts, you can head straight home without worrying whether they will be safe."

Dautrich says, while you may not always be able to pick the spot where you park at the mall, you should keep a couple of things in mind.

"If you'll be out shopping when it's dark, try to park near a well-lighted or well-traveled area. Also, have your keys ready before you approach your vehicle. Make sure you check that no one is hiding in your back seat. Just as importantly, make sure you get in your car quickly, immediately lock your doors, and drive away as soon as possible."

Finally, Dautrich says it's important that parents pay close attention to where their children are at all times while shopping.

"Make sure you keep your children near you and don't let them wander around unsupervised. People who abduct children target those whose parents aren't paying attention to where they are."

Officer Dautrich says these and other holiday shopping precautions help make the holidays a safe and enjoyable season.



Police to focus on traffic safety as end-of-year holidays approach

With the end-of-year holiday season, Wichita Police Officers placed an additional emphasis on traffic safety between November 20-26 throughout the city. This enforcement effort was a part of the statewide project under the Kansas Department of Transportation *Click It or Ticket* campaign.

"The day before Thanksgiving is the busiest travel day of the year," said Patrol West Traffic Sergeant Jerry Quick. "As we headed into the winter holiday season, we wanted to ensure that everyone is buckled up and driving safely. We wanted motorists to arrive safely at their destinations so they could enjoy the holidays and not be struck by tragedy, or the loss or serious injury of a loved one."

The November traffic enforcement effort by WPD and the Kansas Department of Transportation focused on vehicle occupant safety and DUI violations, two factors that contribute to traffic accident fatalities. The enforcement campaign was an effort to reduce the number of drunk drivers and prevent further traffic fatalities. For 2006, the City of Wichita has recorded 36 traffic fatalities, thirteen of which involved motorcycles.

"We want people to understand the importance of using their seatbelts. And, we can't over-emphasize the importance of obeying traffic safety laws," said Quick. "The men and women of the Wichita Police Department are very serious about enforcing those laws. We wanted the 2006 holiday season to be a safe and happy one for motorists in the Wichita area."

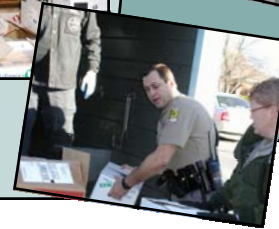


Behind the scenes ...

WPD brings Thanksgiving to families in northeast Wichita

WPD Patrol North officers made life a little more enjoyable for 75 families in northeast Wichita by providing them with Thanksgiving dinners.

Officers delivered the food for the dinners, which were provided through the Union Rescue Mission. The event has been part of the holiday season at Patrol North for several years.



Officer Kimble delivering a turkey

School Resource Officer retrieves stolen flute

In November the Hadley School band teacher contacted SRO Johnny Parker and explained that a student had a flute stolen from her home and the student was failing the class because her instrument has been missing for two weeks. Upon conducting follow up, Officer Parker contacted the person in possession of the instrument and was able to retrieve the flute.

Citizen Police Academy graduates 30 citizens



November 14, 2006

Thirty Wichitans are the most recent graduates of the Wichita Police and Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office Citizen Police Academy. The class, which finished the 13-week curriculum on November 14, heard commencement remarks from Chief Norman Williams and Sheriff Gary Steed.

"The Academy is a good example of how citizens can work together with the Department to support law enforcement and open positive lines of communication within the community," said Lt. Darrell Atteberry, the WPD coordinator of the Citizen Police Academy.

Another CPA will begin later this Spring.

Patrol East officers help youth through wrestling

When you're young and full of energy, you need something to do to channel that energy in a positive way. That's where five officers from Patrol East come in.

For the better part of a decade, the Wolf Pack Wrestling Club has been a chartered club of the Kansas USA Wrestling League. Sergeant Bobby Wiley functions as the club's director, with Officer Doug Mitchell as its head coach. Officers Kenneth Roush and Patrick Phipps are the team's assistant coaches.

"Although wrestling looks like an individual sport, it's very much a team effort," said Wiley. "And, the Wolf Pack is a great way to get these young men working together."

Wiley said the team was created in 1999 as a way to teach young men the fundamentals of folk-style wrestling. It became a member of the Kansas USA Wrestling League in 2000. Wiley said the team practices at Jardine Middle School every Wednesday and Thursday from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

"The Wichita Community Foundation has sponsored the Wolf Pack Wrestling team during the first four years through the Wichita Police Department's Community Policing Juvenile Intervention initiatives," said Wiley.

Currently the team does not have a sponsor, he said. "In spite of the fact that we struggle to pay the league registration fees, it's worth it. But, we're always looking for support."

Wolf Pack Wrestling currently has 20 team members. The wrestling season starts in October and ends in April.



Members and coaches of the 2003 Wolf Pack Wrestling Club

"Project Butterfly" helps women move beyond prostitution



Wichita women who have succumbed to a life of prostitution now have a way out of that destructive lifestyle. And, the program – which allows women to let their inner beauty shine – is appropriately named "Project Butterfly."

"Project Butterfly is a joint effort by the Wichita Police Department and the YWCA," said South Patrol Community Police Officer Dwain Diehl. "It gives women both an incentive and a way to change their lives forever." Begun in November, Project Butterfly allows women an opportunity to move into a stable, productive life, said Diehl.

Project Butterfly provides each woman with a cosmetic bag packed with toiletries and a Project Butterfly card. And although officers are still arresting women for prostitution, they're also providing them with the cosmetic bags and a way out of their lifestyle.

"Many women turn to prostitution after being in a destructive domestic relationship," said Diehl. "Many also use drugs to support themselves and their pimp. Project Butterfly gives these women a way to transform themselves, just like a caterpillar transforms itself into a thing of beauty."



Officers Dwain Diehl & Janette Griggs talk with prostitute (center)
Photo provided by the *Wichita Eagle*

Watchful neighbor helps break up burglary ring

The old Pontiac LeMans parked across the street from Terri Dick's house in the 8600 block of East Hurst didn't look familiar. And, when she saw four young men in jeans and black hooded sweatshirts get out, she got suspicious. When they knocked on her neighbors door, no one answered. That's when they went around behind the home and she wrote down the license plate number on the car.

When one of the four spotted her watching him, he ducked. So, Dick got into her car and drove around the block to get a better view of the house. That's when she called 911 and put into motion events that eventually led to the arrest of four people connected to a series of burglaries on Hurst.

Meanwhile, an alert citizen in another southeast

Wichita neighborhood reported suspicious behavior around a house across from hers.

That call, too, led to the arrest of five more people and allowed detectives to solve another string of burglaries.

"This is an excellent example of how citizens can partner with police to make Wichita a safer and more secure community," said burglary Lieutenant Barry VonFange. "It proves once again that watchful neighbors can make a big difference in helping solve crimes."



Terri Dick looks out window to neighbors yard across the street
(Photo provided by the *Wichita Eagle*)

Training Center grounds get cleaned up by Boy Scout Troop

During September and October, the Training Center worked with a Troop 736 Boy Scout who was looking for an Eagle Scout project.

Austin Smith and his mother chose the Training Center over several other potential projects that were offered to them.



Captain Darren Moore and Boy Scout Austin Smith go over plans for Eagle Scout project.



Troop 736 Boy Scouts volunteer

Plans were developed for the scouts to trim trees, edge the sidewalks and drives, pick up trash and debris on the grounds, paint the obstacle course and Training Center sign, stain the picnic tables, pull weeds in the courtyard and playground, sweep both courtyards, and other miscellaneous outdoor tasks.

The event was scheduled for Saturday, November 4th. Between the Boy Scouts and their family members, approximately 35 volunteers participated in all or part of the clean-up activities. The Sherwood Glen Neighborhood Association provided the workers with a lunch of homemade Sloppy Joes, chips, cookies and drinks. A large trash dumpster was completely filled with trash, tree branches, grass and other debris, and the overall appearance of the academy grounds was dramatically improved.

Patrol East officers join mentoring program

Patrol East Fourth Watch has partnered with the Wichita Children's Home and the Communities in Schools on mentoring programs for at risk youth. Twelve schools that have identified at risk youth will participate in the program. The Officers will talk to the kids about the job role and responsibilities of a police officer and how to become a police officer. The kids will also participate in a ride along with the officers while they work their beat.

Officers stand by seriously ill children

Most of the time, it doesn't take a lot to make a child smile. But, critically ill children usually have less to smile about. Yet, thanks to some WPD officers from Patrol West, children in Wesley hospital with cancer found some new friends who were there for them on Christmas Eve to brighten some of their darkest hours.

It all began when Officers Richard and Michele Schell's son was admitted to Wesley in December. Both noticed many of the children on the pediatrics floor of the hospital didn't have parents there with them at night. That's when they decided to try to make Christmas a little more enjoyable for the children and those taking care of them.

After collecting toys and donations, Richard and Michele contacted Officers Evans, Hanners, Wolfram and Gideon who helped collect and distribute toys to the children and gift cards to the nurses who take care of them.

They also got help from citizens, Joe and Vickie Fellers, Bridget Mack and Georgia Schell. In all, 14 children and six of their siblings had a happy Christmas Eve thanks to the officers. Several businesses also helped out by donating to the project, including Simon Malls, Kay's This and That, Target and Party City.



Officer Richard Schell



Officers Crystal Gideon, Michele Schell and Jeremy Wolfram sort Christmas gifts



Officers Wolfram checks the list twice

If you have items for the WPD Newsletter, please submit them to gbassham@wichita.gov, or call 268-4340.

Coming up in December:

- * *Training Academy recruit class graduation*
- * *Battle of the Badges*
- * *Gift donations to Wichita Children's Home*

